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MAYOR'S MESSAGE

To the Citizens and Taxpayers of Nogales,
Reviewing the Operation of their
Municipal Government.

With the closely approaching end of the official term of the City Council it becomes the duty of the Mayor to promulgate a statement showing the complete workings of the town government, its revenues and expenditures, and the obstacles it has had to surmount in maintaining a corporate government in fact as well as in name.

As all know, for a year or two the aim of the council was to lie dormant, raising no revenue, expending no money, receiving no benefits, having in fact a corporation in name only. During this time it was found that our bridges needed repairs—which were made and left unpaid—a number of cases of small pox appeared and had to be isolated, the patients cared for, furnished medicines, etc.—all of which created expense without funds to meet it. There were also other small items of expense which kept piling up the town debt until it reached several hundred dollars. Continued failure or neglect to pay always terminates credit, and the town of Nogales proved no exception to the rule. Nothing could be bought for the town without a personal guaranty from some member of the council. But the needs and demands for expenditure continued to arise. In this critical juncture some of our most enterprising citizens stepped forward and advised the council to proceed to raise revenue to meet the requirements of the town from licenses and a property tax. This advice was accepted and the council adopted and enforced ordinances to provide a revenue from the two sources provided by law. The plan adopted had in view the policy of paying up the indebtedness, getting the town government working on a cash basis, and then amend the ordinances to compass reduction of licenses and taxes to a minimum, sufficient to meet the actual, economic and NECESSARY expenses of the town.

Immediately upon the commencement of the work of raising revenue the council was obstructed by a few dissatisfied license payers, who put the town to a heavy legal expense in defending against injunction proceedings and enforcing collection of licenses. In all this litigation the town has been uniformly successful, and those who are responsible therefor find in the end that they must pay, and have succeeded only in adding to their own burdens and those of their fellow taxpayers as well. Taxpayers should not forget that of the sixteen hundred and odd dollars the town government has cost, more than five hundred dollars would have been saved but for the senseless and costly litigation precipitated by the "kickers." Under normal conditions this would be nearly sufficient to pay all the town expense for an entire year.

Beyond this, at the instigation of the same "kickers," two of our best citizens were maliciously arrested under a criminal prosecution, for their patriotism in selling the road committee their wares at actual cost. At the same time the town clerk was also arrested for performing his sworn duty in collecting license tax from Chinamen, notifying them that unless they paid they would be arrested for violation of a town ordinance. These cases

however, were of no expense to the town, as they were thrown out of court by the district attorney as soon as he had investigated the facts.

The expense to which the town has been put in defending the litigation inaugurated against it has served only to delay its progress and put off the anticipated reduction in revenue, that would now be accomplished had not the council been obstructed in its work.

The town has also been visited by infectious disease, which has received the careful attention of the council and its subordinates to prevent its becoming epidemic. Patients were isolated and cared for at the pest house, guards put out to prevent intercourse with outsiders, all infected houses thoroughly fumigated, nurses and physicians employed, and medicines and provisions furnished the patients, who were without means. By its prompt and thorough action the council has succeeded in stamping out small pox, there having been no case in more than six weeks. Before the council began its work there was a continuous succession of small pox cases through many months and it required a vast amount of active and effective work by the council and its subordinates to bring the feil disease under control and compass its eradication. The ravages of diphtheria have also been checked and the disease eliminated. In this great work of controlling and eliminating disease, so thoroughly and effectively performed by the council, about one-third of the revenue received has been expended, the bills for that expense footing up \$380.35. So the taxpayers can see that fighting the three pests—small pox, diphtheria and the "kickers"—has drawn from their pockets nearly eleven hundred of their hard earned dollars: the exact figures are \$1082.15. Beyond those three items the entire expense of conducting the town government foots up only \$583.61

Some improvement has been done in cleaning streets, and Cañon street has been widened, while the large, pestilence breeding pool of stagnant water at its junction with Railroad avenue has been filled up. A portion of the expense of this latter work was paid by the town, while the rest was sustained by property owners in the vicinity whose holdings were increased in value by removal of the plague spot.

The following statement of revenue and expense, taken from the records in the clerk's office, is approximately correct; and any and all persons are invited to go to the office of the town clerk and inspect the books; they are open to the public. We find some of the same disturbing element trying to volunteer information which is like all street gossip, inaccurate, or a distortion of facts intended to mislead those not fully informed.

The amount of work that fell upon the town clerk when the work of a town government was commenced in earnest, was so great that the council entertained the advisability of paying that official \$25 per month; but upon consideration it was concluded better to pay him a commission of twenty-five per cent upon collections in the capacity of license tax collector. In that office his commissions average seventeen dollars per month, and are remuneration in full for his services as town

clerk, license tax collector and treasurer. As collector of property tax the marshal is paid two per cent on collections, and up to the present time he has received the munificent sum of fourteen dollars for his work in that line. Yet the "kickers" have industriously circulated the false and malicious statement that the council pays twenty-five per cent of its entire revenue for collecting taxes, and, for want of correct information many good citizens and taxpayers have believed them.

Beside the fourteen dollars he has received for collecting property tax, the marshal has been paid fifty cents for each dog killed. The revenue from the dog tax about equals the marshal's fee for killing.

Another mountain made out of a molehill by the "kickers" is the salary of fifty dollars a month paid a Tucson lawyer for services as town attorney. When the only lawyer in the town joined the "kickers" the council had to send to Tucson or elsewhere for legal advice. But the "kickers" say the attorney should be hired when needed, only, and save the continual drain of a salary. That was proposed doing at the time the council engaged Judge Wright. But he wanted \$350 for each suit. As there have already been two suits the taxpayers can see that the salary system adopted by the board for payment of the town attorney, gives the town Judge Wright's able services an entire year for one hundred dollars less than the case system, advocated by the kickers, would have cost to date. Beside that the council has had the benefit of Judge Wright's valuable counsel and advice in various minor matters, all of which would have cost additional money under any but the salary system.

Up to the present time the revenue of the town has been as follows:

From Property Tax	\$1021.00
Licenses	613.00
Total	\$1634.00

The expenses incurred have been as follows:

Protection against small pox and diphtheria	\$380.35
Necessary legal expenses, town attorney's salary, etc., incurred in protecting the interest of the town in the injunction and license tax cases	501.80
Incidental and street expense	291.30
Pay of Clerk, Treasurer and License Collector	153.46
Pay of Marshal as Tax Collector	13.85
Paid Assessor for copying county roll	125.00
Total	\$1665.76
Bills enumerated in above accounts not yet paid	298.55
Total actual money paid out	\$1367.21
Add thereto cash now on hand in General, Street and Cemetery Funds	266.79
Total	\$1634.00

The above statement includes the indebtedness owing by the town since its incorporation in 1893.

The foregoing statement shows also that there is now on hand almost sufficient money to liquidate the bills now outstanding, amounting to \$298.55; but monies in the street and cemetery fund cannot be devoted

to the indebtedness of the general fund. However there is due the town for taxes advertised as delinquent and licenses unpaid for which judgments have been rendered, to the amount of \$619.91. This amount will shortly be realized and paid into the treasury. Even without it the town is close to a cash basis. The sums due the town from license suits are as follows.

Lalley & Co., license for liquors and gambling	\$15.00
Jos. Pascholy, license for liquors and groceries	20.00
J. Pascholy & Co., license for brokerage and insurance	18.10
F. J. Hermosillo, license on brokerage	15.00
Escalada Bros., license on groceries	5.00
Mariano Zambrano, license on dray	4.60
Total	\$77.00

Now due from unpaid taxes	\$562.91
Total due from taxes and licenses	\$619.91

The money now in the treasury is within \$31.76 of all demands. With the amount above shown due paid in all outstanding accounts would be paid and there would be in the treasury a cash surplus of \$577.15—a sum nearly sufficient to pay the regular expense of the town government an entire year.

Office room, lights, etc., have been furnished by the clerk without charge.

As hereinbefore mentioned, the expense to which the town has been put to employ an attorney would have been entirely unnecessary but for the hostile attitude of a few, and it can be clearly shown what would have been the cost of maintaining the town government had it not been forced into unnecessary and costly litigation and had there been no necessity for protection against small pox and diphtheria. Against the town the former we hope will not be repeated, and we trust the latter will miss us for several years to come, the council, by its prompt and thorough action, having completely eradicated the diseases, no case having been reported in the past six weeks—as I have stated in another place in this communication. Had we not encountered the drawbacks noted the actual running expense of the town would have been as follows:

	per month	per y'r.
Town Clerk, 25 per cent. of license tax	\$17.47	\$209.64
Assessor	10.00	120.00
Tax Collector	2.25	27.00
Cleaning streets and incld'ls	20.28	243.36
Total	\$50.00	\$600.00

The above financial statement is not a balanced account, but is approximately close, and will vary but very little from the treasurer's report, which will be given the last of the month; but it will serve to give the public a correct idea of what would be the ordinary running expenses of the town without uncommon obstructions in the way.

And in closing I wish to call particular attention to the fact that a good portion of the expenditure herein set forth was to pay town debts incurred previous to the work of the council as at present constituted.

Respectfully submitted,
F. HERRERA, Mayor.

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